

ADULT IMMUNIZATION SUB -GROUP

Discussion during the Texas Immunization Stakeholder Working Group Meeting (TISWG) on November 4, 2004 resulted in a suggestion to create an adult immunization sub-group. The objective would be to coordinate information and resources to promote flu and pneumonia vaccinations for adults, especially for those over 65 and those with chronic conditions. Madeline Gill and Brenda Ortiz of the Texas Medical Foundation agreed to contact others to determine interest.

Conference Call to Assess Interest in Statewide Collaboration

Based on suggestions from several partner organizations, TMF invited agency personnel to participate in a conference call to discuss collaboration for adult immunization. Participants from the Department of State Health Services, American Lung Association of Texas, the Austin/Travis County Health Department and TMF discussed possible topic areas and activities during the call. Topics included:

1. Avian influenza and pandemic flu
2. Vaccine supply and timeline
3. Late season flu campaigns to encourage vaccination
4. Medicare roster billing information for health departments and others who vaccinate
5. Coordination of information about the actual vaccine supply during the season – (who orders vaccine and who doesn't)
6. Coordination of promotion and information about flu shot clinics

There was consensus to continue dialogue via conference calls and face-to-face meetings whenever appropriate.

It was suggested that participants also be recruited from nursing home trade associations, the DSHS regulatory body for nursing homes, Texas Medical Association Foundation, and home health trade organizations.

Planned Next Steps

1. We will continue discussion of the topics outlined to determine how to begin addressing these needs.
2. We will continue to request information about potential partners for the adult sub-group and will invite these persons to participate.
3. A Web-based training on Medicare billing for flu shots is planned for this summer to address roster billing and other claims -related issues.
4. We have explored development of a website to coordinate information about and promote flu shot clinics throughout the state. Flu clinic schedules would include those conducted by health departments and retailers, as well as community-based flu clinics such as those conducted by faith-based organizations and community immunization coalitions. Health departments will also be given access and the ability to make changes as necessary to assure consistent accuracy of their schedules.

To offer suggestions or names of individuals to contact about the adult immunization sub-group that is forming please send information to:

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